

Message Text

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DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PARTY--RESTON FROM S/PRS-TRATTNER

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JULY 28

1. MAJOR ITEMS IN BRIEFING WERE ANNOUNCEMENT OF INITIAL-
ING OF NEW DCA WITH GREECE, IN ATHENS; REPORTS OF HIGH-
LEVEL MEETING WITH PANAMANIAN ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS; POS-
SIBLE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD; AND REPORT THAT
U.S. AND SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO MOVE SOME ISSUES OF SALT
TALKS TO GENEVA NEGOTIATING LEVEL.

2. DCA WITH GREECE: SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT EARLIER
TODAY IN ATHENS, REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. AND GREECE INITI-
ALED NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHICH MODERNIZES
OUR BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BY BRINGING UP TO DATE
ANUMBER OF OLDER MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH GREECE, MANY
OFTHEM DATING BACK TO EARLY 1950S. NEW AGREEMENT WILL
NOW BE SUBMITTED AD REFERENDUM TO TWO GOVERNMENTS. NO DATE
HAS YET BEEN SET FOR FORMAL SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. IN
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RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN FEB-
RUARY 1975; THAT TEXTS INCLUDE BASIC DCA AGREEMENT AND SIX
APPENDICES, OF WHICH FOUR COVER MAJOR INSTALLATIONS U.S.
HAS IN GREECE, AND OTHER TWO RELATE TO COMMAND AND CONT-
ROL, AND STATUS OF FORCES; THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES 700 MIL-
LION DOLLARS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PART OF WHICH IS

GRANT AID; THAT TURKISH DCA SITUATION IS UNCHANGED;

AND THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE WHEN GREEK DCA WILL GO FORWARD TO HILL.

3. HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON CANAL: ASKED IF PLANS EXIST FOR SUCH A MEETING, AS TORRIJOS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID A FEW DAYS AGO, SPOKESMAN SAID HE WOULD NOT RULE IT OUT AS A POSSIBILITY; PRESSED AS TO WHETHER PROPOSAL FOR MEETING IS ACTUALLY BEING ENTERTAINED OR WHETHER WE MERELY ARE NOT RULING IT OUT ON PRINCIPLE, HE SAID, ON BACKGROUND, THAT PROPOSAL IS BEING ENTERTAINED.

4. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD: ASKED IF U.S. HAD OFFERED ASSISTANCE, SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EARLIER THIS MONTH, CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT, DJIME, MET WITH SECRETARY AND VICE PRESIDENT. THE SUBJECT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS WAS RECENT ESCALATION OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN CHAD. CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME DID REQUEST U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HELP CHAD DEAL WITH LONG-STANDING REBELLION IN NORTHERN AREA, AND EXPLAINED THAT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF HIS COUNTRY WAS BEING THREATENED BY WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE OUTSIDE AGGRESSION. AT THAT TIME, MONDALE AND SECRETARY BOTH INDICATED THAT WE WOULD, ONE, CONSIDER REQUEST SYMPATHETICALLY, AND SECOND, THAT WE DID SHARE HIS CONCERN REGARDING SITUATION. SO FAR AS REQUEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS CONCERNED, DETAILS OF WHAT IT INVOLVES, WE REALLY NOT PREPARED RIGHT NOW TO SAY MORE.

5. SHIFT OF CERTAIN SALT ITEMS TO GENEVA: ASKED ABOUT REPORT (BEECHER IN GLOBE) THAT SOVIETS HAD AGREED TO U.S. PROPOSAL TO THIS EFFECT, SPOKESMAN HAD NO COMMENT.

6. IN MINIBRIEFING JUST AFTER JULY 27 BRIEFING, SPOKE-

SMAN RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ON U.S. MILITARY AID TO SUDAN. IN ESSENCE, HE SAID U.S. HAS INFORMED SUDANESE GOVERNMENT THAT WE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUDAN'S LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS AND, AS FIRST STEP, HAVE OFFERED TO SEND SURVEY TEAM TO DETERMINE THESE REQUIREMENTS. AT THIS TIME WE HAVE NOT APPROVED ANY SPECIFIC ARMS TRANSACTION BEYOND SIX C-130S ALREADY APPROVED. SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED SURVEY TEAM OFFER; EIGHT-MAN TEAM CURRENTLY BEING ORGANIZED AND WILL DEPART IN EARLY AUGUST. VANCE

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